

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 have been amended and new claims 13 and 14 have been added.

The Examiner cites **Sekine** (US Patent No. 5797594) as being substantially the same as the claimed invention except that this reference does not disclose a second shock absorber for providing expansion damping force. For that very reason, **Sekine** is not a proper reference to cite against the present invention. **Sekine** is not structured to be utilized as either a compression damping force or an expansion damping force shock absorber. Rather, it is a traditional dual action shock absorber modified to accommodate the special problems associated with automatically adjusting the height of a vehicle. It operates by communicating the cylinder chamber with the pump chamber at two predetermined locations, to maintain a certain ride height. There is no mention of a single action structure for compression damping usable in conjunction with a single action structure for expansion damping.

The Examiner cites **JP 6441495** as teaching a dual shock absorber arrangement where one shock absorber provides expansion damping force and the other provides compression damping force. However, this reference does not teach two different shock absorbers. Instead, it discloses the conventional shock absorber having both a compression and expansion damping force structure in a single shock absorber.

None of the cited references teach the structure of the presently claimed invention, where, in a two shock absorber system, one shock absorber is constructed to provide compression damping force and the other shock absorber is constructed to provide expansion damping force.

By specializing the task of each shock absorber, the design of each can be greatly simplified, thereby reducing the complexity and cost.

CONCLUSION

Having obviated the Examiner's objections, applicant seeks an early indication of allowance.



REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF THE TERM

Applicant respectfully requests an extension of the normal term which expired on February 1, 2005 for 1 month(s), to March 1, 2005.

Submitted herewith is a check for \$120.00 to cover the cost of the extension.

Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account Number 04-2219, referencing our Docket Number 13712.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA 22313, on February 28, 2005.

Katherine Bruce